

REMARKS

The present filing is responsive to the Examiner's concerns noted in the Office Action.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's allowance of claims 8 and 10-17.

Summary of the Response

Claims 1-5 have been canceled. Claims 6, 7, 18 and 19 had been earlier canceled. Claims 8-17 remain pending in this application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application as amended are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claim 9 has been amended to depend on independent claim 13.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takehashi et al. (PCT Publication No. WO00/54339). (The English equivalent, Takehashi et al. (U.S. Patent 6,624,473 B1), is used hereinafter.) Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takehashi et al.

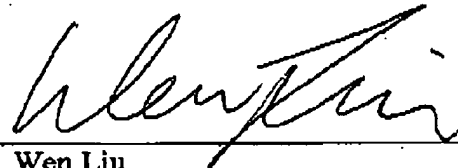
While Applicant does not agree with the rejections, in the interest of forwarding this case to early allowance, Applicant canceled claims 1-5 without prejudice, and amended claim 9 to depend from claim 13.

Accordingly, the remaining claims 8-17 in the case are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of all the foregoing, Applicant submits that the claims pending in this application are patentable over the references of record and are in condition for allowance. Such action at an early date is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative to discuss any outstanding issues that may not have been adequately addressed in this response.

Respectfully submitted,



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